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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Donald W. Thompson, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Division, announce the sentencing today of Majdi Kukash, age 32, of Richmond, Virginia, after his conviction on charges of health care fraud. Kukash was sentenced to 71 months by United States District Judge Robert E. Payne, and was ordered to pay \$ 857,607.59 in restitution to the Virginia Medicaid Program.

Kukash was convicted following a jury trial in October of 2002 of defrauding the Commonwealth of Virginia Medicaid Program of over \$850,000. Kukash owned and operated a non-emergency medical transportation company, Ambu-Care Transportation, Inc., which transported Medicaid-eligible patients to and from medical appointments and adult day-care facilities. He defrauded the federal Medicaid program and the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services by over-billing for the transportation of patients. In addition, he was convicted of illegally owning and operating Ambu-Care after having been convicted of a health care fraud offense in New Jersey.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This defendant interfered with a vital government function. Every dollar diverted to his criminal fraud was one less dollar that could be spent on the people in need of services. This office will aggressively prosecute those who abuse and betray the trust vested in them to provide public services."

Assistant United States Attorney Gregg R. Nivala prosecuted the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.